The Stale of Karnataka has received the following additional assistance for drought relief operations in the recent years:

Year	Financial Assistance t (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains# (Lakh MTs)	Approximate Value (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	207.65	7.20	838
2003-04	298.16	7.29	913
2004-05	83.67*	1.14	**143**

t National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)

special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

* subject to adjustment balances in the State Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)

Damage to rabi crop due to natural disasters

†1864. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that severe damage to the crop of rabi has been estimated due to untimely rain in the Southern region as well as hailstorm in the Northern region;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the production, on about 44000 hectare of land, has been affected on account of the above factors;

(c) if not, Government's assessment in this regard and the value of agro-produce estimated to be damaged due to above reasons; and

(d) the relief decided to be provided to the producers to compensate such loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the assessment made in the crop weather watch group meeting held on 14th March, 2005, there is no severe damage to the rabi crop due to untimely rain or hailstorm, in fact, as per the assessment of the crop weather watch group, the area

†Origmal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

coverage under wheat in 2004-05 is comparable to that in 2003-04. While in case of rice, the area sown in rabi 2004-05 is 7.5% more than the corresponding area in 2003-04, the area under coarse cereals is 9.5% more during the same period. In case of oilseeds to the areasown in rabi 2004-05 is 8.3% more than the corresponding area in 2003-04. The hailstorms were localized and, as such, would not have any severe impact on the total production of rabi crops. According to the assessment made on 14th March 2005, the are?under rabi crops of 2004-05 season is 609.8 lakh hectares as compared to 595.9 lakh hectares as per the corresponding assessment made in the previous year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Decreasing agricultural growth rate

†1865. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural growth rate has decreased in the country during the last nine years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the measures being taken by Government to increase the agricultural growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The agricultural growth rate in the country has not shown any consistent trend during the last nine years. The details of growth rate of GDP in agriculture including allied sectors are given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) Since about 60% of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production is heavily influenced by rainfall. During the last nine years, the growth rate in agriculture was negative in four years, namely, 1995-96 (-0.9)%, 1997-98 (-2.4%), 2000-01 (-0.1%) and 2002-03 (-7.0%). The main reason for the negative growth rate in 1995-96 was the significant decline in the production of both kharif and rabi foodgrains, whereas in 1997-98 and in 2000-01 the main reasons was the significant decline in the production of rabi foodgrains and oilseeds. The year 2002-03 witnessed a severe

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.